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Construction Begins on Arizona's
THIRD TEMPLE

Photo by Jill B. Adair

Pima Stake President Mark S. Bryce, left, and Elder William R. Walker, executive director of the Temple Department, unveil the artist's rendering of the new 15,000-square-foot temple to be completed next year. This will be Arizona's third temple, following the Mesa Temple built in 1927 and the Snowflake Temple in 2002.

Groundbreaking of Gila Valley Temple

Church leaders and local stake presidents and their wives joined Elder Andersen, center, in turning the first shovelfuls of earth at the Feb. 14 groundbreaking of the Gila Valley Arizona Temple.

Photo by Jill B. Adair

By Jill B. Adair
The Beehive

Thousands gathered February 14, 2009, to take part in a "day of joy and gladness" as they witnessed the groundbreaking for a new temple in eastern Arizona's Gila Valley. Many joined the celebration at the site, while others viewed the live broadcast to the stake centers of the seven stakes that will comprise the new temple district.

"Let us rejoice as we bless this land and break this ground," said President Mark S. Bryce of the Pima Arizona Stake, which includes Central, where the temple site is located.

On April 26, 2008, President Thomas S. Monson announced plans to build two new temples in Arizona, one in the Gila Valley, the other in Gilbert. These were the first temples President Monson announced after becoming president of the Church on Feb. 3, 2008. Within weeks, he announced another temple would be built in northwest Phoenix, bringing the total in Arizona to five.

Quoted in a press release at that time, President Monson said, "It is my per-

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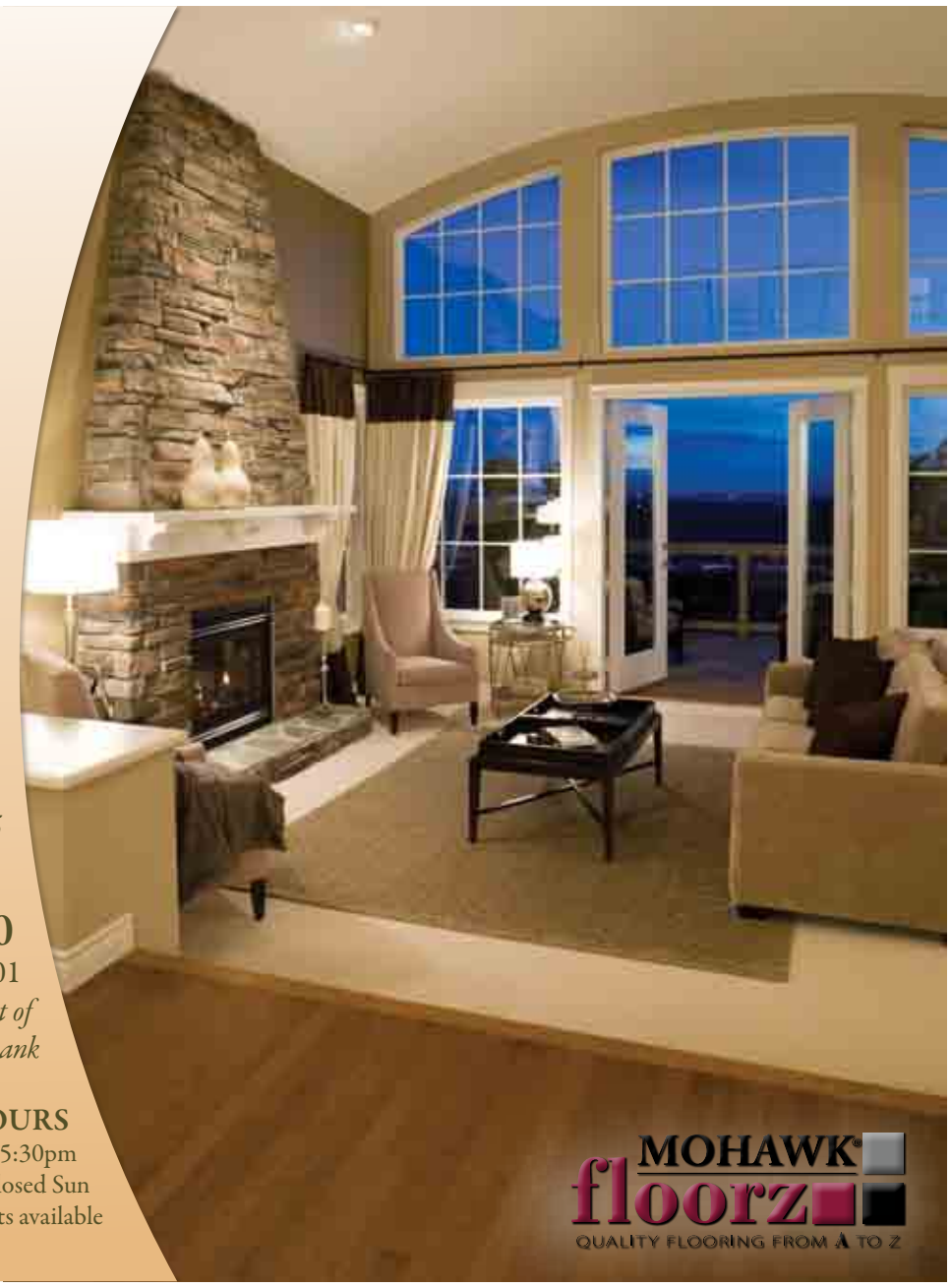

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Gila Valley Temple Groundbreaking
Continued from pg. 2

sonal priority to make sure members of the Church have access to the blessings of the temple. It is here where members learn of their divine origin and destiny; where they are strengthened spiritually as individuals and as families. Temples are sanctuaries from the storms of life."

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Presidency of the Seventy, who was named as the newest member of the Quorum of the Twelve during April Conference, presided at the groundbreaking event. Accompanying him were Elders Wilford W. Andersen, of the Seventy, and William R. Walker, executive director of the Church's Temple Department.

"Your prayers, your pleadings, your great lives of righteousness have been lifted to the Lord," Elder Andersen said, adding it would be impossible to overstate "the significance of the work that will be done here."

In his remarks, Elder Andersen also referred to the 12th President of the Church, Spencer W. Kimball, who was raised in nearby Thatcher; and, after marrying, moved few miles east, to Safford. Elder Andersen said rejoicing must be occurring on both sides of the veil as a long-hoped-for temple becomes a reality.

President Bryce, too, spoke of those who had gone before, saying "Let us remember the faith that precedes the miracle that we shall now behold."

It was 1879 when seven pioneer families first arrived in the area along the Gila River in the eastern part of the state. Braving dangers of all kinds, extreme temperatures and cycles of drought and flood, these pioneers not only survived, they flourished and raised generations firm in the faith.

Upon arriving in the Valley, even before homes were a serious consideration, canals had to be dug with horse plows, wooden scrapers and shovels to bring river water to thirsty desert land for crops.

"They came and they settled, and they refused to quit," said President Bryce. "They stayed and made this valley their home."

Four years later, there were enough members in the area to form a stake and the Church continued to grow in the communities of Bryce, Pima, Thatcher, Safford, Solomon and Central.

Spencer W. Kimball was three when he arrived in the Gila Valley with his parents; and they made their home in Thatcher. President Kimball's father, Andrew, was called to serve as the second Stake President of the St. Joseph Stake, following Christopher Layton, who had been a member of the Mormon Battalion.

Photo by Jill B. Adair

Elder Neil L. Andersen of the Presidency of the Seventy, who was named as the newest member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles during April Conference speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony Feb. 14.

Later, after Spencer married Camilla Eyring, aunt of Apostle Henry B. Eyring, they settled in Safford to raise their family and run an insurance business. Spencer would also serve as Stake President and, in 1943, at the age of 48, was called to the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. He became president of the Church in 1973.

For nearly 50 years after the Saints settled in the Gila Valley, a trip to the temple required traveling to St. George, Utah, by horse and wagon over some of the roughest territory in Arizona. The month-long, 800-mile round trip was known as the "Honeymoon Trail."

In 1927, Arizona's first temple opened in Mesa, making it considerably more convenient for Saints in the eastern part of the state to have the blessings of the temple. Still, it wasn't until 1952 that a new highway allowed Gila Valley residents a direct route to Mesa.

Early historical records dating back to 1882 note that, on several occasions, Church leaders promised the Saints of the Gila Valley that "one of the most beautiful temples ever built among the Saints" would be built there someday.

Over the years they clung to that promise but wondered when it could possibly come about, since many areas of the state were growing much faster than their small farming community.

One thing that helped the area prosper was the school that began in 1888 as the St. Joseph Stake Academy. Through nine name changes and ownership being transferred from the Church to Graham County, the school is now Eastern Arizona College (EAC), the oldest member of the present-day Arizona community college system. Currently, more than 13,000 students attend EAC.

Today there are three stakes in the Gila Valley. Those, along with four stakes in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico, will comprise the new

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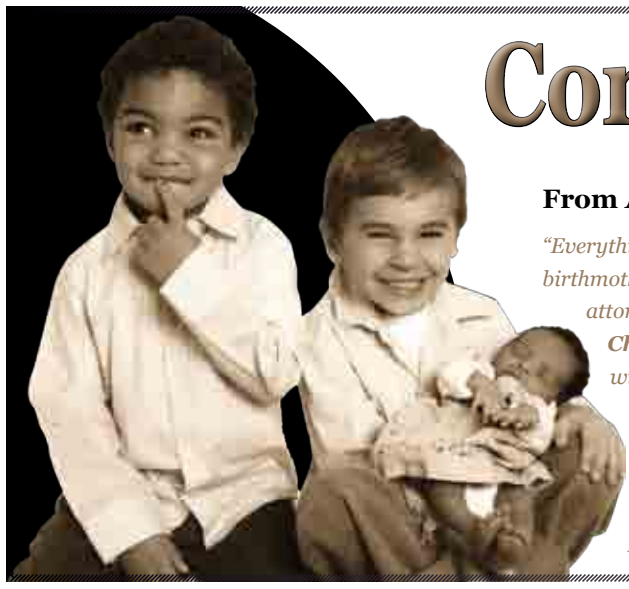

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Outstanding Latter-day Saint Women Honored as Arizona's

Mothers of the Year

Photo by Jolie Anne Molino
www.jolieannephotography.com

A mother of 9 and grandmother of 15, Connie Turley is happy with the opportunity to represent other mothers as Arizona's 2009 Mother of the Year.

Photo by Jolie Anne Molino
www.jolieannephotography.com

Arizona's 2009 Young Mother of the Year is Janeen Wright, a mother of five, who says she hopes to be a cheerleader for other mothers.

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Three outstanding Arizona mothers—all of them Latter-day Saints—were recently honored by American Mothers, Inc.

Connie Turley was named Arizona Mother of the Year; Janeen Wright, the Arizona Young Mother™ of the Year; and Janelle Spillsbury was honored as a Mother of Accomplishment.

Mother of the Year Connie Turley has 9 children and 15 grandchildren. She, and her husband, Jim—members of the Century Gardens Ward, Kimball East Stake—say their children are their crowning accomplishment.

"Our greatest family strength," notes Connie, "is that together time has always been important. Dinnertime was important, our children supported each other in their sports and performing arts, and family home evening was an absolute must."

"We had family home evening on a regular basis since our oldest boy was 18 months old. We rarely missed," Connie says. Today, she says, though their children are all out of the home, with their youngest serving a mission, "Our family still likes being together."

With all the fun and activities, the Turleys also taught their children to work.

"We felt it was important to show our love and caring, and that meant having rules and responsibility around the home," Connie says. "We all served each other."

Connie, who teaches choir at Shepherd Junior High School in Mesa, says, while she appreciates the opportunity to represent motherhood, she doesn't consider herself a perfect mother.

"We have had struggles in our home and much adversity," she says, "but we just don't give up. We support each other

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Gila Valley Temple Groundbreaking
Continued from pg. 4

temple district.

Many of the Saints who live in the area today are descendents of early pioneers who sacrificed so much and they are quick to pay tribute to their forebear's perseverance and faith.

Elder Walker said the building of this temple represents years, decades and generations of faith and devotion to the Church by the good people of the area.

"This valley is a sacred and special place," he said.

Lorina Merrill of the St. David Stake expressed the gratitude that so many feel.

"We have been praying and fasting for a temple for years," she says. "We were told by our leaders that when we were ready the Lord would provide. We needed to prove ourselves worthy and ready and make a dedicated effort to get to the Mesa Temple."

The 15,000-square-foot temple, which will be the third in Arizona, will serve approximately 32,000 Church members from Silver City, New Mexico, and the Arizona cities of Pima, Safford, Thatcher, Duncan, St. David, Sierra Vista.

"This is one of the greatest things to ever happen in the Gila Valley," says Ladd Mullenaux, former mayor of Thatcher and former bishop and counselor in the stake presidency.

Duncan Stake President Danny L. Merrill says members of his stake are four to six hours from the Mesa Temple. After the new temple opens next year the drive will be less than 90 minutes.

"Saints here have demonstrated to the Lord that they're willing to go to the temple no matter where it is," he says. "It is a great blessing that it is coming here."

"This means everything to us," says Safford Stake President Mark Herrington. "We all feel gratitude and the privilege of a temple. We have already seen the influences of the temple in the valley just with the announcement of it. We are being blessed beyond anything we have seen here."

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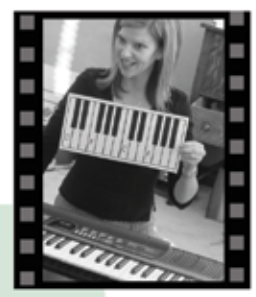

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LDS Mothers Honored
Continued from pg. 5

and help each other no matter what."

Arizona's Young Mother 2009, Janeen Wright, and her husband, Jack, are members of the Groves Ward, Mesa Mountain View Stake, and are the parents of five children. Janeen has a degree in broadcast journalism and has been a leader, teacher and inspirational speaker in Arizona, Florida, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Utah.

Janeen says she doesn't see herself as much different than most mothers.

"I believe most mothers are exemplary," she says. "I think, though, that my strongest attribute is that I really try to be a happy person and to enjoy the journey."

An accomplished marathon runner, Janeen says her first marathon taught her a great deal. A friend had encouraged her to put something on her shirt so people would recognize her and cheer her on.

"I couldn't think of anything but, 'Mother of 5,' so I put that on my shirt," she says. As the race progressed, people watching from the sidelines would yell encouragement, saying 'Keep it up Mother of 5;' and, 'Way to Go, Mother of 5."

That experience was a vivid reminder that "Each of us needs a cheerleader in the marathon of motherhood," says Janeen.

She hopes to be that kind of cheerleader, and she encourages mothers, saying, "You can keep going. You can finish."She also reminds mothers, "Remember to love yourself, because the Lord loves you."

Arizona Mother of Accomplishment 2009, Janelle Spillsbury, is a mother to seven and has also "mothered" dozens of young children as a Montessori instructor. Three of Janelle's daughters have also become Montessori instructors, following in their mother's footsteps. Janelle and her husband, Ralph, own a small business together.

Connie Turley and Janeen Wright will represent the State of Arizona at the American Mothers Inc. National Convention in Portland, Oregon, this April. For more about American Mothers, visit www.americanmothers.org.

UFI Celebrates 30 Years of Supporting the Family

Photo provided by Tricia Gore

United Families International celebrated its 30th anniversary with a gala celebration that featured well-known authors and speakers Linda and Richard Eyre. Shown above (l to r) are Lina Hatch, Past President; Carol Solberg, Chapter Director; Beverly Rice, President; and Linda and Richard Eyre.

By Valerie Ipson
The Beehive

In celebration of 30 years of protecting and defending the family, United Families International (UFI) hosted a gala event this past February.

Guest presenters for the commemorative dinner event were Richard and Linda Eyre, renowned authors and speakers whose focus is family relationships and parenting.

Honored at the event were Arizona's "Yes for Marriage" Coalition leaders for their outstanding efforts leading to the successful passage of Proposition 102, which states that marriage is between one man and one woman. Individuals recognized were: Cathi Herrod, Peter Gentala, Carol Shippy, Larry Perkins, Sean Noble, Ronald Johnson, Frank Macias, and John LeSueur.

Created in 1978 as a non-denominational, non-partisan organization, United Families International's purpose is to protect the family as the fundamental unit of society. Their cause covers many areas as they advocate for the rights of the unborn, defend marriage and parental rights, and uphold family values.

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Lee Kenyon Udall Leaves Legacy of Love & Kindness

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Mesa Temple president, mission president, mayor of Gilbert, attorney, farmer/rancher and father of eight—these are just some of the titles Lee Kenyon Udall was known for during his life.

Yet, people who knew him say Kenyon, who died February 17, will be remembered not for what he did, but for who he was and for his "kindness," his "spirit" and his profound "influence."

Lee Kenyon Udall, the son of Jesse and Lela Lee Udall, was born March 6, 1925, in Thatcher, Arizona, and lived there until he was inducted into the Army during WWII.

After returning from the Army, he married Leona Carpenter and, in 1950, graduated from the University of Arizona School of Law.

Ken and Leona settled in Gilbert, where he farmed, ranched and practiced law; and where they raised their eight children: Jayna and Dave Lindsay, Brooks and Suzette Udall, Collin and Karen Udall, Nona and Mark Herrington, Alayne and Don Favreau, Lela and Bill Tingey, Marcie and Darrin Gordon and Jordan and Alison Udall.

"Dad was the mayor of Gilbert when

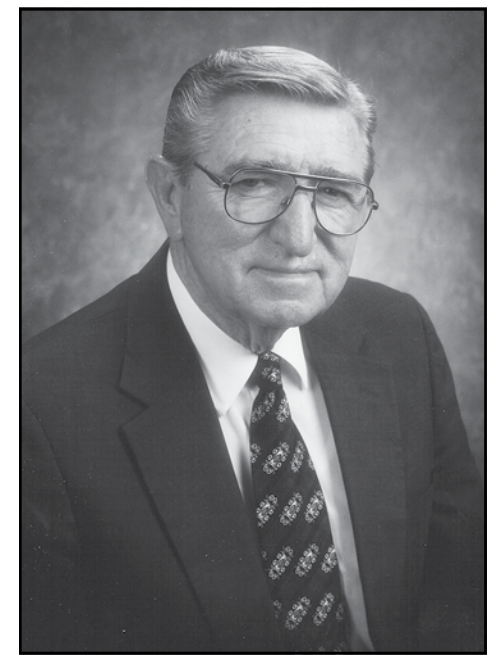

Photo provided by Alayne Favreau

Lee Kenyon Udall, of Thatcher, former Mesa Temple president, president of the Illinois Peoria Mission and mayor of Gilbert, who passed away February 17 at 83, is remembered for his kindness and his influence.

I was a little girl," Alayne recalls. "That was way back when Gilbert was a really small town, and he actually helped the streets get paved the first time. We were members of THE Gilbert Ward; it's hard to imagine now with all the stakes in Gilbert now."

Kenyon served as the Gilbert Ward bishop and as a counselor and then as Stake President in the Mesa South Stake. Other church service included serving as Scoutmaster, Regional Representative, Thatcher Stake Patriarch, and Regional Welfare Director.

He and Leona served together when he was called as president of the Illinois Peoria Mission from 1992 to 1995.

"How they loved missionary work … and how they loved those missionaries," Alayne says.

The couple also served together when he was called as president of the Mesa Arizona Temple from 1997 to 2000.

"Those were beautiful years. They lived right there in the temple home and we loved to visit Grandpa and Grandma on the temple grounds. They were both so giving and selfless, it was a joy to watch them serve in the temple, serve each other, and serve their children and grandchildren," Alayne says.

Alayne says her dad had a motto he lived by.

"He would say three simple things: The church is true, God has been good to us, and, the best is yet to come," she says. She says that motto was what her father lived by, and it has been a guiding star in her life.

"His influence permeates every part of my life. He just might be the kindest man ever born," Alayne says.

In an interview with the Eastern Arizona Courier, Kenyon's daughter, Nona Herrington, said her father's life could be summed up in four characteristics: "optimism, sense of humor, faith and service."

Daughter Marcie Gordon described her father as the "fun guy" in the family who loved spending time with them, especially with his 41 grandchildren and 23 great-grandchildren.

"He loved being outside and doing

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UFI Celebrates 30 Years
Continued from pg. 7

One way this is accomplished is through yearly participation at the United Nations in negotiating pro-family views in documents that set policy throughout the world. They also join forces with other like-minded organizations to educate the community and promote family issues on national, state, and local levels.

Lina Hatch, of the Islands Ward, Gilbert Stapley Stake, recently completed a year of service as director of the Arizona chapter. With a background in Child Development and Family Relations and a desire to educate others about family life and traditional values, Lina says she became involved with UFI because their purpose mirrors her own views on the family. Lina believes unequivocally that the family must be protected and strengthened. She will continue to serve in other capacities within the UFI. She and her husband, Lorin, have seven children and seven grandchildren.

Trish Groe is the new UFI Arizona director. She and her husband Frank were baptized as members of the Church in November 2008 and currently reside in the Elliot Ward, Gilbert Arizona Stake. They moved to Gilbert in January when Trish completed her second term as a state representative for Legislative District III.

She says, "Becoming involved with United Families Arizona is an answer to prayer as my future was unclear after my stint at the legislature."

The UFI Arizona chapter is involved in the grassroots efforts to provide information on such topics as marriage, abortion, abstinence education, and adoption. They have hosted booths at many events, including Arizona Families for Home Education Convention, Arizona Right to Life Conference, Yavapai County Fair, and Constitution Fairs in Gilbert and Mesa.

The chapter recently began hosting workshops to teach how to effectively use the Arizona Legislature's Web site. Attendees at these popular hour-long workshops, learn to locate summaries of proposed legislation, how to track bills as they move through the process, and how to voice support or opposition on a bill from the comfort of their own home.

"These workshops are in such great demand that we are traveling throughout Arizona hosting them in homes, schools, and at other organizational meetings," Trish says. "We are even doing them for Enrichment Night activities."

Volunteer applications are being accepted in a wide-range of areas, from data entry, which can be done from the UFI office or your own home, to event planning, fundraising, and community outreach. Trish hopes that members of the community will consider what they can offer in support of the family.

She says, "We at United Families Arizona desire to strengthen your voice in order that it be heard by those legislating policy that affects your family."

To volunteer or for more information, go to www.unitedfamilies.org or www.unitedfamiliesaz.org. Contact the UFI Arizona office at 877.435.7834 or Trish Groe directly at 480.720.8018.

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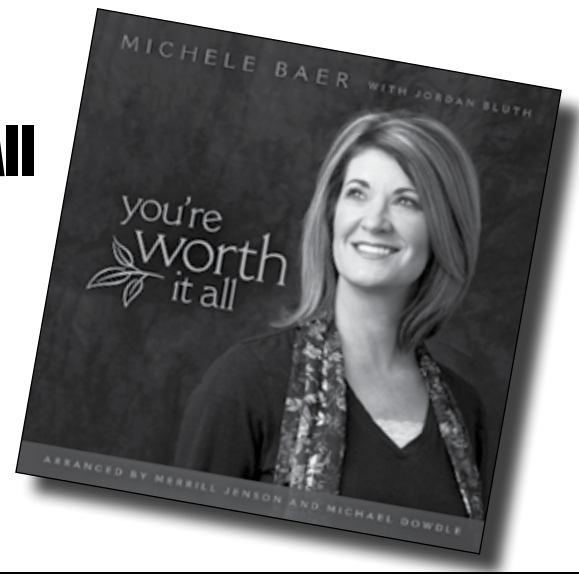

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LDS Employment Services provide new programs for professional-level jobseekers

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Professional-level jobseekers who are out of work or those who are looking to make a career change find help and support through a unique professional career networking program. Organized under the auspices of the Mesa Regional LDS Employment Resource Center, the networking program began in January and continues, with meetings every second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

Program director, Norvel "Bud" Alexander says, "The objective of the program is to provide opportunities for career professionals to network with other career professionals, to meet employers and executive recruiters to learn additional job search techniques and to practice skills taught in the Professional Career Workshop. It is intended that the program will provide opportunities for career professionals to broaden their networking contacts through active participation with other career professionals."

Brother Alexander says Employment Resource Center started offering the Professional Career Workshops two years ago. He says author and corporate trainer Dennis Deaton, of the Thayer Park Ward, Mountain View Stake, now has been called to lead that program.

"Dennis is developing a team of professionals to teach that course," Brother Alexander says. "He is doing a marvelous job of putting a team together to really upgrade the program."

The 12- to 14-hour course is taught on two consecutive Saturdays, typically the first and third Saturdays of the month.

Those who have participated in the workshops as well as others who are interested are encouraged to attend the bimonthly networking meetings.

"Each professional networking meeting begins with prayer, and after a short greeting and introduction, each professional candidate presents a short, "me in 30 seconds" introduction, to explain who they are, their professional field and career objectives.

The introductions are followed by a half-hour long, motivational presentation given by an employer, recruiter or other speaker.

"The participants then break into networking groups of five to six people each," Brother Alexander says.

He adds that many times recruiters and employers attend the meetings and share a brief idea about their company, who they are and what they are looking for.

Brother Alexander says the professional networking program fills a growing need.

"With the ripple effect of the economy, professional-level workers are starting to feel the effects," says Brother Alexander. "We are working to meet the need of these individuals."

He says the professional-level workshops and networking opportunities help individuals to remain confident and poised while searching for a job.

Brother Alexander adds that strides are also being made to develop a networking program for C-level executives.

Roc Arnett has been called to head up that program and is working with stake presidents across the Valley to identify "four to six men in each stake who are well-connected and in the know of where jobs are."

Brother Arnett says, "We are in no way trying to create an elitist group." Instead, he says, "We are trying to bridge a gap, to match opportunities and individuals and to make introductions to employers."

The professional networking meetings typically are held on the first and fourth Wednesday of each month. The meetings are at the Mesa LDS Institute of Religion Room 103, 1310 South Dobson in Mesa. For advance registration (which is requested), please call (480) 829-8999. Please refer any questions to Elder Norvel "Bud" Alexander, Employment Resource Advisor, by calling (480) 325-2349.

Lee Kenyon Udall Leaves Legacy of Love
Continued from pg. 8

things with the family," Marcie said.

Nona told the Courier her father loved to build all sorts of contraptions to entertain his children and grandchildren. Some of these included tree houses, cable cars, go-carts and an old tractor he converted into the "Church Street Choo Choo Train."

Alayne says her father's love for her mother was always evident. "He adored my mother. . . and told us, and her, often," Alayne says.

Leona died of lung cancer in July of 2008, a short time after the couple had celebrated their 60th anniversary. "He was lost without her," Alayne says. "Seven months after mom died, dad got pneumonia and went downhill very quickly."

She continues, "I miss them both so. I always felt honored to have been his daughter. . . but, then in his life story he wrote that he was honored to be associated with his children. Such a good, humble, optimistic, funny, wonderful dad.'

Surviving siblings include Mary Louise Palmer of Thatcher, Lee Udall Flaherty of Gilbert, and David K. Udall, of Mesa, who is currently serving as temple president in Paraguay.

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Former **Thatcher Stake President** called as South Dakota/Rapid City **Mission President**

By Tina Scott
The Beehive

Recently called as the South Dakota/Rapid City Mission President, Jay Layton, with his wife, Diane, of Thatcher 3rd Ward, Thatcher Stake, will begin their service June 24.

Diane says the call itself was interesting.

"I got a call one day after Jay had left," she explains. "[The caller] identified herself as Elder L. Tom Perry's secretary. I took the phone and looked at it, and then I tried to talk to her as best I could." After hanging up, "I called Jay, and I couldn't stop crying."

The Laytons were scheduled to go to a Tempe location to participate in a videoconference with Elder Perry."Think of how big the church is now. It's worldwide. They use [videoconferencing] a lot," says President Layton.

Two weeks after conferencing with Elder Perry, the couple went back to Tempe for a video interview with President Henry B. Eyring, who then extended the call.

"We have faith and trust that this church is true," says President Layton, "and if the Lord wants us to do it, … not only will He bless us, but He'll have to. We're very overwhelmed by it."

Born and raised in the Gila Valley, they both graduated from Thatcher High School and began dating after Diane's junior year. They dated steadily until Jay left to serve in the Northern States Mission.

"We got married because we were the only two at school who weren't related," jokes President Layton. Diane adds, "It's more truth than comedy." Jay's graduating class consisted of 35 students, and, two years later, Diane's class had 48.

They've been married 38 years, have four children, and their 12th grandchild is due just days before they are to report to Salt Lake City.

Sister Layton's parents, who live near them, will be cared for by Diane's two sisters while the couple is away. "I've never worried about it from day one, she says, "because my sisters are wonderful."

They own and operate a thousand acre farm, which they took over after President Layton's father passed away. Now, their son, Justin, will be the fourth generation to manage their farm.

The Laytons have served in numerous Church callings. He has served in bishoprics and as Stake President. She has had callings in Young Women's and as the Primary President. For the past year, they've served as temple workers.

"You can see the little things all the way back that have been a preparation," says Diane. "That's the thing that gives me faith to know who's in charge."

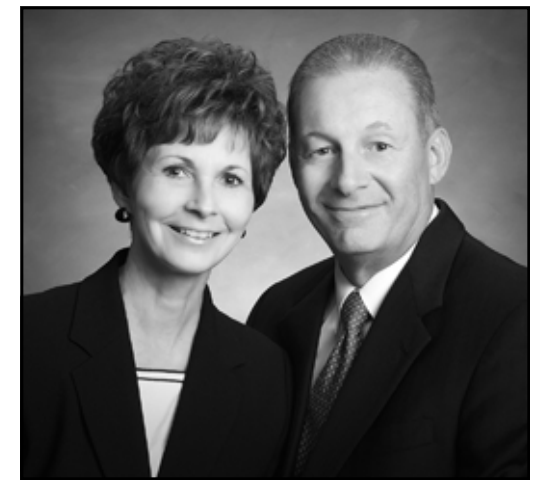

Photo Provided by Kristen Seale of Holiday's Photo Emporium
Recently called as the South Dakota/Rapid City Mission President, former Thatcher Stake President, Jay Layton, with his wife, Diane, of Thatcher 3rd Ward, will begin their service on June 24.

The mission covers North and South Dakota, western Minnesota, northern Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. "The challenge, I think, is the distance," says President Layton. "It's huge geographically. We're told that one of the stakes is as large as the state of Utah." President Layton will have the added responsibility of acting as Stake President for an area district as well as fulfilling his calling as Mission President.

"I wasn't prepared for the amount of resources the church uses to prepare, train, and then to support you while you're a mission president," says President Layton. "It's been very reassuring, very comforting."

Diane agrees, "The Church has sent us so many materials to read, CDs to listen to, DVDs to watch—all of them geared at missionary work."

While they have always planned to serve a couple's mission, the Laytons were surprised to be called at this time. "I think there's a lesson in that," says President Layton. "We need to be on the Lord's time frame and not [our own]. Hopefully, this will be a way that we can pay back some of the IOUs we've accumulated, spiritually speaking."

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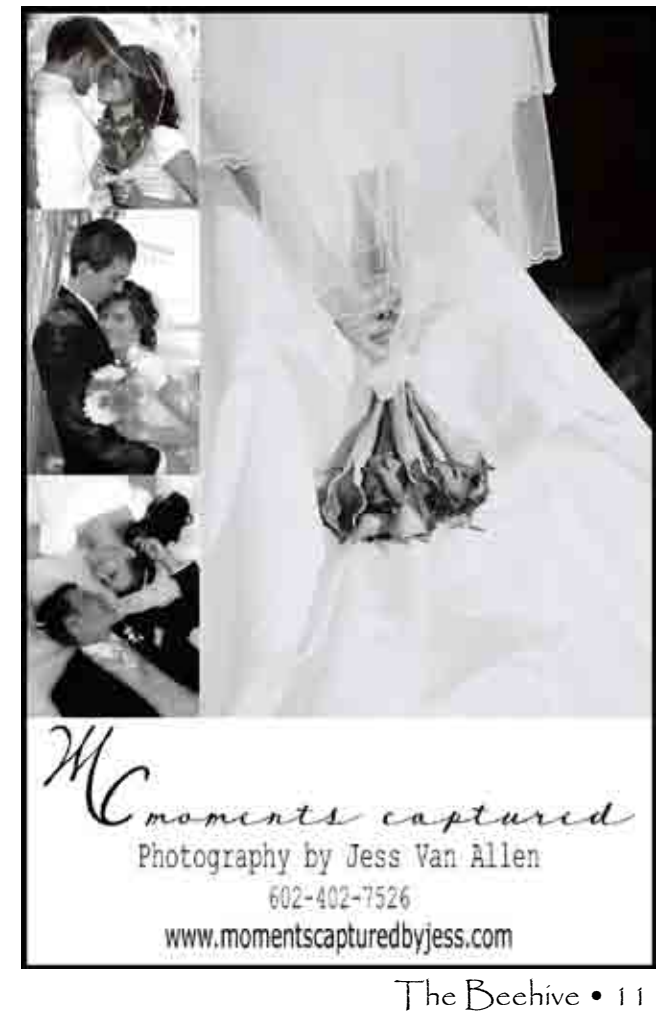

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A Rediscovered Secret about **Chocolate** Leads to a Healthy Alternative

Winning New Entrepreneurs, New Fans

by Jackson Terry

Most people never dream that their favorite junk food – chocolate – can actually be good for you. But the truth is that chocolate was used as a health food for centuries, even prescribed by ancient healers as a cure for everything from asthma to high blood pressure.

Now modern science is backing up what the MesoAmerican natives knew to be true nearly 2,000 years ago. "Chocolate is good for you, as long as it's the 'right' kind of chocolate—dark chocolate with very high cocoa content," says chocolate authority Dr. Steven Warren M.D., D.P.A.

You won't find healthy chocolate in the grocery store checkout lines, or even the upscale natural foods markets, says MXI Corp, a company based in Reno, NV that sells the Xocai (pronounced "shosigh") line of healthy chocolate products through a network of independent distributors in the U.S. and Canada.

MXI cofounder and vice president Andrew Brooks says, "We spent years and hundreds of thousands of dollars researching chocolate. What we found is that chocolate is one of the healthiest foods on the planet. The U.S. government rates cocoa as one of the highest antioxidant foods anywhere— even higher in antioxidants than the acai berry.

"The problem is that chocolate has slowly been turned into a cheap, unhealthy candy over the centuries, with all of the good being stripped out. We brought chocolate back to its true roots in a healthy, patented formula."

Star Appeal

One enthusiastic backer of Xocai healthy chocolate is legendary entertainer Marie Osmond. Fresh from signing a new two-year contract with the Flamingo Las Vegas for a high-energy variety show, Marie said, "Everyone who knows me knows I'm crazy about chocolate! A healthy chocolate product like Xocai gives me my chocolate fix without the guilt. As a matter of fact, I feel great about eating Xocai products because I know I'm actually doing something wonderful for my health."

Marie Osmond eats Xocai healthy chocolate to help her get through busy days as one of the bestloved entertainers in the world.

Marie goes on to say, "[With Xocai], I feel great and have the energy I need to get through long days of rehearsals, performances and raising eight kids."

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Encouraged by the fact that the market for chocolate consists of nearly a billion consumers, as well as the fact that chocolate is a proven product in any economy, thousands of people from all walks of life are partnering with MXI Corp. to start their own Xocai healthy chocolate businesses.

Jeremy Reynolds, Xocai founding distributor, says, "The words 'healthy chocolate' have changed my life and the lives of thousands of other people who have learned how easy it is to start and grow a business for themselves selling chocolate!

"All we're doing is showing people how to replace the bad chocolate they are consuming with the healthy Xocai chocolate."

Indeed, with nearly one thousand new Xocai businesses opening up every week, MXI Corp experienced record growth for 2008. MXI reported that the number of independent Xocai businesses doubled over the last 12 months, and the firm anticipates that sales volume will double by the end of 2009.

"We call it 'the perfect combination'," says Reynolds. "It's a healthy product everyone loves, backed by independent science, and fantastic timing."

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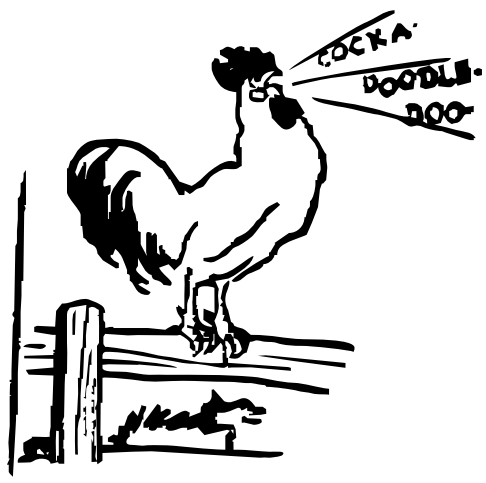

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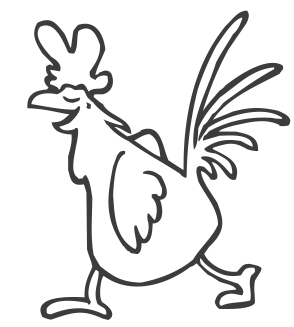

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From *flowers* to *quilts*, Lyman Haws uses artistic talents to *bless* lives

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Photo provided by Laura Gunnell

W. Lyman Haws, 90, continues to use his artistic flair and creative talents and, with his wife, Marilyn, has created hundreds of quilts for the Church humanitarian services and for their dozens of children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Lyman Haws, at 90 years old, still seems to have a special knack for using his hands and his artistic talent to bless the lives of others.

As a florist and owner/manager of Haws Flowers in Mesa for 40 years, Lyman was known throughout the East Valley area for his beautifully artistic floral arrangements.

"For some families I did flowers for the parents' weddings, then, years later, their kids, then their grandkids," he says.

Lyman retired from Haws Flowers 20 years ago, turning the operation over his brother Henry and his wife Edna, who retired earlier this year.

Yet, for Lyman, retirement didn't mean relaxing in a rocking chair. Instead, he's stayed busy, funneling his artistic abilities and his desire to serve into making quilts.

Lyman, and his wife Marilyn, who is in her 80th year, are members of the Signal Butte First Ward, Apache Junction Stake. Working together, they have completed more than 450 crib-size quilts for the Church humanitarian services. In addition to those donated to the Humanitarian Center, Lyman and Marilyn have made dozens more—many that are full or king-size quilts—for their children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and close circle of friends.

Using a quilting machine he obtained from a friend years ago, Lyman fits each piece perfectly in place, tightens the pieces carefully, selects his pattern, then moves his machine in a practiced rhythm to complete the process. Once the quilting is done, Marilyn does the binding and Lyman finishes them off, personalizing each one with his initials in one corner.

They take great pride in every quilt and have become experts in their hobby. Yet, while many recognize how their quilts are blessing others, Lyman says quiltmaking has blessed his life as well.

"Thank goodness I had a chance to get my machine. I have a good time doing the quilts and it helps keep me busy," Lyman says, adding, "I have to stay busy. I can't sit around too long. When you start loafing, that's when you lose interest in life."

Lyman's life certainly hasn't been marked by much loafing. Instead, it has been filled with service from an early age, including serving an LDS mission in the Northwest and as a medic during WWII. He has held numerous Church callings over the years, including serving with Marilyn in the Mesa Temple for six years.

Lyman's first wife, Rhoda Farnsworth, was killed in an automobile accident in 1966. They had five children: Laura (Gunnell), Marilyn Joy (Merrill), Walter Haws, Carol (Hatch) and Jerri (Mabry). He then married Mary Ester Ferrin Martin and became father to her four children. They had one child together, Echo (Itaaehau). Mary passed away in 1992. He is currently married to Marilyn Macdonald Cottrell, who is the mother of six children.

His daughter, Laura, who has 58 grandchildren and six great grandchildren of her own, says, "He's leaving a neat little legacy with his quilts. All of our children will have a treasure that is part of him."

Even more, she says, Lyman is leaving a legacy of love and example.

"He's very uplifting and positive, a great example to our family," Laura says. "When I think of my dad, I think of him working in the temple, and winking at me across the room."

Carol Hatch, of the Voyager Ward, Gilbert Val Vista Stake, agrees.

"My dad has always been my strength in life," she says. "He's a great example to me.

"He's one of the most awesome men I've ever known," Carol says, and, as hundreds of quilts seem to emphasize, "He's spiritual, good, sweet and giving."

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CONGRESSMAN'S DAUGHTER WINS

Arizona's Junior Miss Title

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

For as long as she can remember, Alexis Flake had dreamed about participating in Arizona's Junior Miss Scholarship Program.

"Junior Miss is something I always attended growing up and I have looked up to the girls who were in it," she says.

In February, Alexis not only was among the 25 other young women, all high school seniors, to participate in this year's program, but she was the one who walked away with the $2,800 in scholarship money and the honor of being named Arizona's Junior Miss 2009.

The other top finishers, all LDS, were runner up, Kylie Foster; first runner up, Holly Perkinson; and second runner up, Ashlyn Soelberg.

Alexis says, through her participation, she gained a new perspective on the Junior Miss program.

"I didn't know it would be that much fun and not competitive at all. I didn't feel one ounce of competition among the girls," she says.

Alexis says she learned a great deal about herself as well.

"I learned not to be shy about things. If you have an opinion and have reasons for what you think, it's important to speak up. Other people will respect you when you do."

Alexis is the second oldest of five and the only daughter of Congressman Jeff Flake and his wife, Cheryl. A member of the Estate Groves Ward, Mountain View Stake, Alexis is a senior at Mountain View High School in Mesa. After graduation, she will attend Brigham Young University, where she plans to major in Broadcast Journalism.

In addition to the overall title, she also won awards in the Interview, Self-expression, Fitness and Talent categories. For the talent portion of the competition, Alexis played the piano and sang "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

She says she learned to play the piano from her mom, who learned from her mother, who learned from her mother and so on. Alexis now teaches voice and piano to children in her neighborhood and is a member of the performing group, LIGHT.

"Sharing my love of music has been incredible. It's such a fun and amazing outlet," she says. "Music is a wonderful thing in all forms."

Alexis was a varsity cheerleader through high school until she gave that up to participate in LIGHT. She is a member of National Honor Society and of Toro Links, which is a support group at Mountain View High School that assists sophomores and for new move-ins.

Photo by Steve Nissle

Alexis Flake, daughter of Cheryl and Congressman, Jeff Flake, recently won the title of Arizona Junior Miss 2009

Also active in Young Women activities, she says that, and her understanding of her own beliefs, helped her throughout her Junior Miss experience.

"It was easy for me to answer questions based on things I believe," she says. "It gave me confidence, knowing I could be representing the Church, too, and that I have the Lord on my side."

Alexis says her mother is her greatest role model.

"I have always looked up to her as someone with grace and poise. She is fun, but respectful at the same time. She is a wonderful woman who can do anything she sets her mind to." Most of all, Alexis says, "My mom has always been accessible to me."

In June, Alexis will travel to Mobile, Alabama, where she will compete with representatives from the other 49 states for the opportunity to become America's Junior Miss 2009 and for a share of more than $150,000 in cash scholarships.

She encourages other young women to get involved in Junior Miss or to take other opportunities to share who they are.

"Don't be afraid to do something you've never done before," she says. "Some people think you need to change to fit a certain mold. But, you can change the mold. You don't have to lower your standards. You can change the pattern by being who you are and who you want to be. Don't be afraid to be the person you really are."

For more information on the Junior Miss program visit www.ajm.org.

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MISSIONARY MOMS Give Needed Support

Photo by Pam Kitchen

Mothers of Missionaries in the Estate Groves Ward participate in monthly meetings to lend support and encouragement and share advice with one another. Shown after one of their meetings are missionary moms (back row, l to r) Cheryl Flake and Pam Kitchen, (middle row) Karen Zaharis, Denise Clifford, Karen Gulbrandsen, Renae Hoon, Kathy Nielsen, Sharon Hamblin, Lora Davis; and (front row) Debbie Forrest, Deena Heap, and Susan Darner.

By Pam Kitchen
The Beehive

While a mission call brings much joy, it can also be a time of stress and uncertainty for the new missionary's parents. Many turn to the Internet, where online groups discuss everything from washable ties to travel visas. Some missionary parents, however, are finding a more valuable resource right in their own ward.

Mothers of missionaries serving from Citrus Heights Stake's Estate Groves Ward meet together once a month. The participants take turns hosting and providing a light lunch. It's not uncommon for the host to prepare food from their son's or daughter's mission and for others to show up in t-shirts emblazoned with a foreign flag or other insignia representing their child's mission. During the one-hour meeting sisters share helpful information and give one another emotional support.

Renae Hoon, a first-time missionary mom says, "This group has been extremely helpful to me. Everything I've learned about missions, I've learned from these moms. We are able to support each other in hard times and in good times. Just knowing other moms are going through what I am is comforting."

The group also helps missionaries stay in touch with home-ward friends. Each month, parents prepare a one-sheet letter from their missionary and make copies for every other missionary. Testimonies, pictures, amusing stories, and advice fill the missionaries' messages. When the meeting is over, each mom takes home a packet of letters she can then send to her missionary. The bishop also receives a copy of the letters, allowing him to follow the missionaries' progress.

Missionary moms (MMs) in the Harmony Park Ward, Mesa Kimball Stake, have adopted the familiar M&M candy as their symbol. Shortly before an elder or sister leaves, a wooden cutout of the colorful candy characters is placed in the departing missionary's front yard. The same sign appears when the missionary returns. Dads sport the M&M logo on special ties and moms give each other candy to help ease the sting of mission goodbyes.

Local missionary moms groups also sign cards for each missionary's birthday or assemble "potluck" care packages. Each sister brings one item for each of the missionaries such as socks, toothbrushes, stationery, candy, beef jerky, granola bars and other non-perishables. Some groups distribute a missionary address list so the entire ward can send Christmas greetings.

Missionary moms encourage others to start a group in their own ward or stake, saying the association, encouragement and advice they have received from the group has been invaluable. They appreciate, too, the benefits for their missionaries, of being able to stay in touch with ward members and have that added support as well.

Sister Hoon says the group "has been one of the highlights of my time as a missionary mom. I am so grateful for the sisterhood that exists among us."

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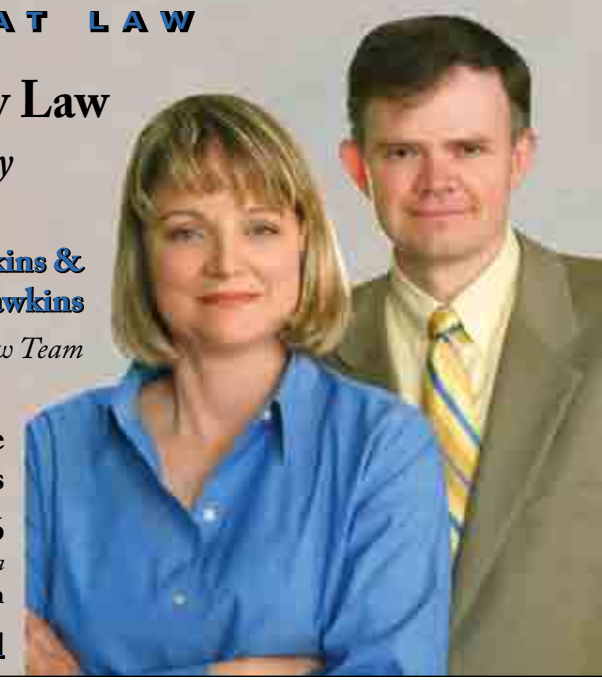

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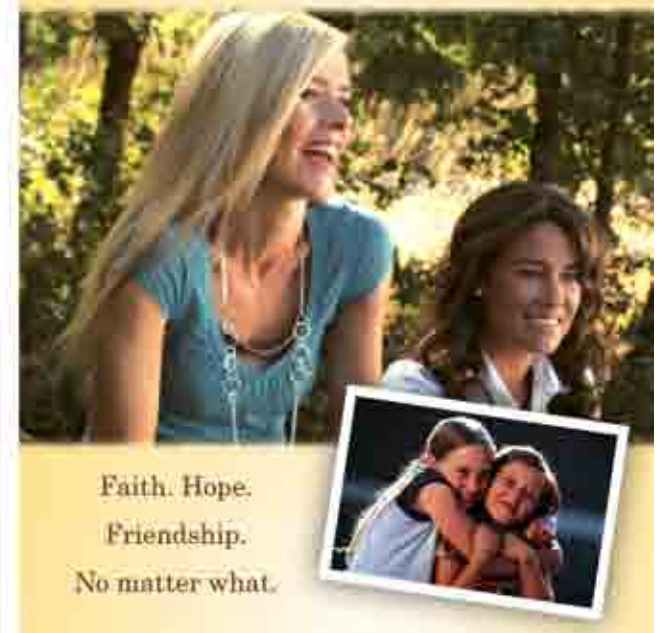

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Plan to reach out at the "Choose to Help - Golden Rule in Action" Event

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

On May 28, the Arizona Interfaith Movement will join with organizations from across the state to put the Golden Rule in action. At this unique gathering, nonprofit organizations and charitable foundations that provide human services to people in need will have a chance to mingle with potential volunteers and community members who are looking for ways to live the Golden Rule.

Dr. Paul Eppinger, Arizona Interfaith Executive Director, says the mission of the event is "to help mitigate the impact of the current economic crisis on our state by marshaling our community's resources to help create new and cost effective collaborations wherever possible; matching individual philanthropists and volunteers" with the various nonprofit organizations and charitable groups.

To facilitate this mingling and collaboration, organizations will set up booths to distribute information about their cause or organization and their needs. Community members then will be able to circulate, view the various displays and become familiar with various opportunities to give and to serve.

The "Choose to Help—Golden Rule in Action" event will begin with a free kickoff breakfast and special guest speaker. It will be held May 28, from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Arizona Fair Grounds Exhibit Building, 1826 W. McDowell Road in Phoenix. Parking will be free to the public. For more information, please visit: www.choosetohelp.org

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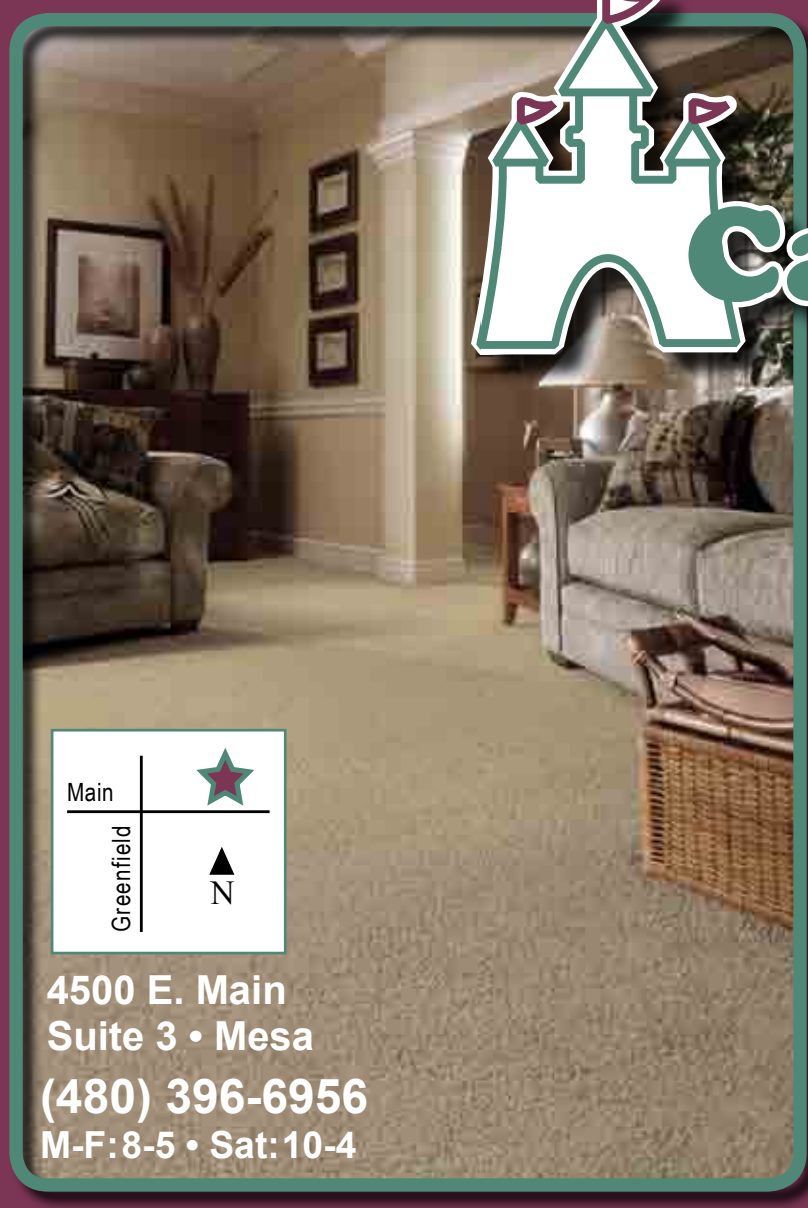

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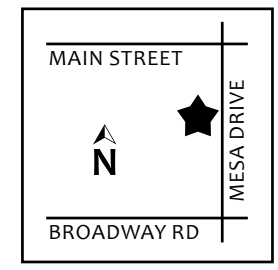

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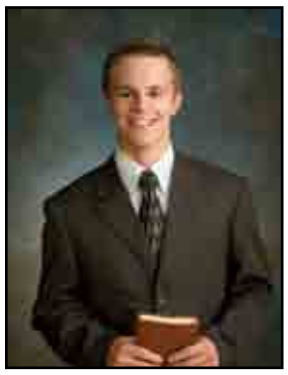

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Castle Floors Offers Quality, Value

By Pam Kitchen
The Beehive

In today's economy, when more people are opting to "make it do and fix it up," Castle Floors offers cost-effective solutions. If your home needs a make-over, and you're looking for quality products at affordable prices, Castle Floors is the place to start.

Dean Merrell, of the Century Gardens Ward, Kimball East Stake, began Castle Floors in 1987. Born in Mesa and raised in Snowflake, Dean is a fifth generation native Arizonan. His LDS ancestors homesteaded in Showlow in the 1870s.

The Castle Floors showroom is located at 4500 E. Main Street #3 in Mesa, between Greenfield and Higley roads. Dean and his staff pride themselves on the one-on-one service they can offer to customers. "I have 30 years experience in flooring. Our staff's combined experience is almost 60 years, which gives us unique insight."

Dean and his staff are known for their personalized, customer-oriented approach. "Individual family needs vary, so we ask lots of questions. We get to know your needs so we can match them with the right product," says Dean.

The Castle Floors showroom features quality brand names—such as Shaw, Mohawk, Bruce, Tarkett, and Karndean. Dean explains Karndean Flooring is fairly new to the United States. Their "luxury vinyl" product has a wood-floor look and has become quite popular. In fact, Karndean flooring is used in Wal-Mart stores across the country.

Dean says, "It's a very affordable vinyl with the look of wood planks. I recommend it because it's very practical and durable for families with children. There's no worry about children spilling water on it and it has a great textured look."

Whether you are selecting carpet, tile, natural stone, hardwood, laminate or vinyl, Castle Floors offers a wide variety of colors, textures, and styles to suit any need and budget.

"We have a number of value-priced carpets that are very affordable to help accommodate the unique market we are in," says Dean. Porcelain and ceramic tile, natural stone and granite options include styles from reputable companies, like Daltile, Interceramic and Benissimo, as well as a top quality local supplier, Arizona Tile. The showroom has many samples, making it easy to match your home's décor.

Over the years, Castle Floors has expanded to include more than just flooring. They now offer the full line of Hunter Douglas window treatments, as well as the Harmony Shutter line from Legacy Window Coverings. Window specialist April Allen, of the Kimball Stake, has more than 20 years experience and has completed training from the prestigious Hunter Douglas Window Fashion Institute.

For more information, visit Castle Floors' Web site at www.castlecarpets.net, call 480-396-6956, or stop by their showroom to see what Dean, April and the rest of the friendly staff can do for you.

For many reasons beyond my control, the "Helen Spencer Schlie Fine Art and Book Gallery" has had to close its doors after a brief but shining history.

The Grand Opening on August 23, 2008, celebrated my 85th birthday, with cake and candles and American flags flying to honor my late husband, Walter C. Schlie, as a WW1 Veteran.

Latter-day Saints were in contact with us from all over the world because of the fine article Cecily Markland wrote in the August 2008 issue of The Beehive Newspaper. I also wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to each of you who, collectively, spent countless hours of physical labor preparing and operating the Gallery.

My personal thanks to Jay and Nancy Linford, my partners and publishers of my book of poetry, And So It Begins.

Thanks, also, to Pat and Nolan Gibson and other members of the Gold Canyon Ward. To Peggy Grabe, Sharon Clark, and Cherokee Mangus, my very capable friends, "Thank you."

I will remember, gratefully, the many fine artists who shared their talents and allowed us to display their work in the Gallery.

If anyone has any questions or comments, I can be reached at 480-671-0676 or 480-203-9465, or by e-mail: helen_schlie@mchsi.com

Sincerely,
Helen Spencer Schlie

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Grandpa says, "Preparation brings peace of mind!"

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Preparing for the Gilbert Temple, Primary Children Amass

Pebbles & Pennies

Photo by Alma Kerby

Primary children in Gilbert are do things like donating their pennies, memorizing the Family Proclamation and Brianna Kerby, shown above, is even making jewelry, selling it and donating the money to the temple fund.

By Evelyn Hendrix
The Beehive

Since April 2008, when the announcement was made that a new temple would be built in Gilbert, anticipation has grown and testimonies have increased, especially among young people who are finding ways to contribute to this sacred edifice.

"I'm so excited for the temple," Dallin Everton says. At eight years old, Dallin won't be going to the temple to do ordinance work himself anytime soon, but he looks forward to doing that someday.

Dallin is one of the Primary children in the Gilbert Greenfield Stake's Vintage Ranch Ward who are preparing for the new temple. The children are learning about eternal families by memorizing the Family Proclamation. Each week, the children memorize a few more sentences. Then, in Primary sharing time, after reciting the new sentences they've practiced, each child is allowed to place a pebble in a special bucket that is marked with the words "Building Our Foundation."

"We really *are* building a strong foundation," says Jill Everton, Dallin's mother and a counselor in the ward Primary presidency. "We're building the base of a strong family and also of the new temple."

As the number of rocks in the bucket increases, so do the children's testimonies, she says.

When the actual foundation for the new Gilbert temple is poured, the bucket of rocks will be added to it.

"Someday, the kids will go inside the temple and realize that they are standing on the foundation that they helped to build," Jill adds. "They are so excited about this project."

The children in the Gilbert Highland Stake's Pioneer Ward are helping build the temple in a different way. Every week, the children are encouraged to bring their scriptures to primary. If they do, each child gets to drop a penny into the "Temple Jar." At the end of the year, the money will be donated to the temple fund.

"We began the Temple Jar in January," says Jeannine Peart, Primary President. "It makes them feel like they are a part of the temple building, while reminding them to use their scriptures."

One young girl in the ward wanted to do even more. Brianna Kerby, 10, decided to put her jewelry-making talents to work. She creates and sells handmade earrings, bracelets and necklaces, donating her profits to the Gilbert Temple fund. Brianna has raised $50 dollars so far and she plans to continue.

"Every time I give a little more to the temple, it makes me feel even better," Brianna says. Her understanding and appreciation for the pioneers who sacrificed to build the early temples has increased.

"They gave their fine china to build the temples," adds Brianna, "so I can sacrifice a little bit too." She sells her jewelry online at www.briannasblingthing.blogspot.com.

With these small and simple means of pebbles or pennies, children across the Gilbert area are learning a great deal about temples and eternal families.

"The 2009 Primary theme 'My Eternal Family' fits perfectly with temple-building," says Sister Everton. "It's fun to see how excited the kids are."

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Queen Creek Mom TACKLES Newest Project as Founder of Pop Warner FOOTBALL PROGRAM

Photo provided by Jeff Whiting

To an already busy schedule, Darcey Whiting, of the Queen Creek Stake, recently added the role of president of the Queen Creek Pop Warner Association, an association which she helped found last year.

By Stacy Johnson
The Beehive

She is the Queen Creek wrestling club president, runs a successful home business, and logs 25 miles running and 20 miles biking each week. A member of Queen Creek Stake's Montelena Ward, Darcey Whiting serves as Ward Music Advisor, Primary pianist, and Sacrament meeting chorister. She also volunteers as an "unofficial" ward missionary with her Ward Mission President husband, Jeff. She is the mother of three children, Eben, Jackie, and Zane.

Jeff remembers when his wife, at 29, had open heart surgery to repair a hole in her heart. "The doctors told me she would have more energy and I didn't believe them. I thought she already had plenty of energy but I was wrong. There is no task that she will not take on if it is something she believes in. She doesn't tell anyone no …"

"… except maybe me," he jokingly adds.

To keep her heart strong and stay in shape, she enjoys running. She has participated in the local London's Run since its beginning, running the half marathon each year. She has participated twice in the Ragnar relay (a 180+mile relay race), and completed a triathlon two summers ago.

In addition to her wrestling club leadership, she also stays busy running a home daycare fulltime and seeing to the needs of her children and husband, who are often as busy as she is. Adding to her already full schedule, she recently took a family-favorite activity and involvement with Pop Warner youth football and pushed it to a new level.

Darcey explains that Pop Warner isn't only for boys; they also offer a competitive cheer program. "It used to be that the cheer squads were just the sisters of the boys on the team, but, over the years, it has evolved to a more competitive program."

The Whiting family has been a part of Pop Warner in the East Valley for eight years. After the first year, Darcey knew some aspects of the program could be improved and volunteered to help. Since then, she has served on the board of directors, the last four years, as president. Jeff also has served on the board and as a coach.

Living in Queen Creek, she noticed an increasing number of families driving to Mesa to participate in the Pop Warner program there, and she recognized the need to create a new association for the boys and girls in the Queen Creek, Coolidge, and Florence areas. She took on the challenge, and with the help and support of her family and friends, she successfully created the Queen Creek Pop Warner Association.

"I wanted to offer an alternate youth football and cheer program for the kids in the Queen Creek area, and I believe in the organization of Pop Warner and what it represents."

According to www.popwarner.com, "Pop Warner Little Scholars, Inc. is the only national youth sports organization in America that requires its participants to perform adequately in the classroom before permitting them to play."

Darcey wants to provide quality youth sports programs. "There are so many things in our world that distract the youth from feeling good about themselves," she says. "One of the reasons I am involved in youth sports is to give them an opportunity to feel important by being a part of something. Whether they win or lose, they learn camaraderie, sportsmanship, and life skills. They learn to work hard and be strong. They also learn that life isn't always fair, that sometimes it is harder than they want it to be but if they use the skills they have been taught, they will succeed."

For more information on Queen Creek Pop Warner, visit www.eteamz.com/qcpw

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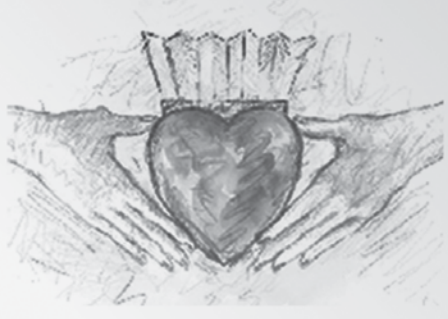

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FREE EXAMS FOR MISSIONARIES

Local Company Provides Personal Service for Your **Satellite TV** and **Internet Access** Needs

By Dale Baker
The Beehive

Can't decide if Dish Network or DIRECTV is best for you? Let Dishtech TV help.

Dishtech TV takes pride in providing each and every customer with great customer service and topnotch home entertainment, says owner Kris Kellis.

He adds, "I was working for national companies and saw the need for a local company that could provide personal customer service and training. So, in 2003, I started Dishtech TV."

"We specialize in free, next-day installation of Dish Network, DIRECTV, Wildblue and Hughes Network for most of Arizona; and no job is too big or small. We hope to be the company that comes to mind for all of your television and home entertainment needs," says Kris.

"Our goal is to remain a local family business so we can stay as close to our customers as possible," he adds.

A member of the Aspen Ward, Kimball East Stake, Kris is especially aware of the needs of Latter-day Saint families in terms of home entertainment and Internet access. He says the company's skilled technicians will answer any questions and will set up each customer's service to their specifications.

"When our customers have questions or problems, instead of being routed to someone overseas, they call and talk to one of our trained, courteous and professional customer service representatives," explains Kris.

Along with superior customer service, "Dishtech TV offers the best deals in town for new accounts, upgrades, movers, service calls, and warranties," Kris says.

He says they are currently offering some of the best deals ever, including free equipment and installation, with High Definition and DVR available. He says anyone interested in the current specials should call to learn more.

Kris says "We have been recognized by both Dish Network and DIRECTV for our outstanding service and sales. We can explain the difference between satellite and cable, so you can make an informed decision."

Dishtech TV has receivers, DVRs, TiVo, HD/DVRs, antennas, remote controls and XM radio receivers at great prices, Kris says. They have extra special deals on used equipment as well.

Dishtech TV has a five-star rating from Yahoo and Best of the Web reviews, and customers praise their professionalism and the quality of their work. Amy, of Gilbert, says, "From the moment I called [Dishtech TV they] were polite and helpful. The technician that came out was very knowledgeable and took the time to answer all my questions."

Dishtech TV is located at 2227 E. Main St. in Mesa and 1834 E. Baseline in Tempe and can be contacted by phone at (888) 323-3474 or (480) 924-1151. They are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Or, to chat with them online or place an order over the Internet, visit their Web site at http://www.dishtechtv.com.

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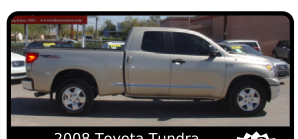
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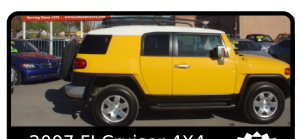
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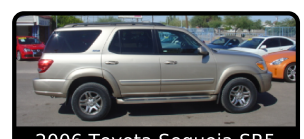
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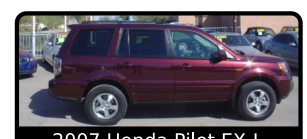
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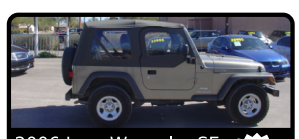
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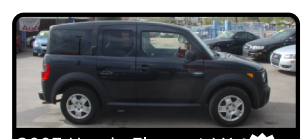
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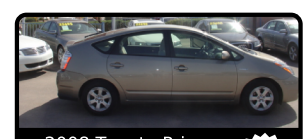
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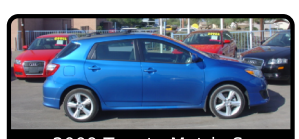
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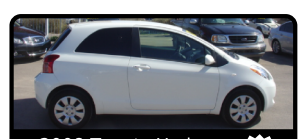
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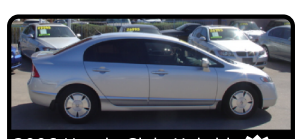
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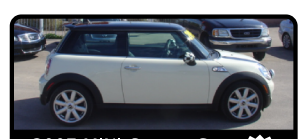
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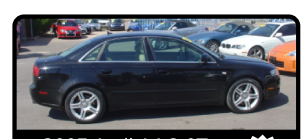
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BENEFICIAL FINANCIAL

Offers Solutions that Promote Thrift and Benefit Lives

By Cecily Markland
The Beehive

Since 1905, when Heber J. Grant first encouraged the founding of Beneficial Financial Group, the company has continued to foster, and to live by, its own self-imposed standards and core principles.

The only difference, is that the 45-year-old desire—to promote sound financial practices while helping to protect widows and orphans—has expanded in its scope of service, as Beneficial has taken on a concerted effort to reach out to many in the community and around the world.

Says current Beneficial President Kent H. Cannon, "Widows and other beneficiaries have greatly benefited from the essential, life-enriching services we provide. Our services and products have blessed the lives of so many individuals and families."

Beneficial Financial Group, owned by Deseret Management Corporation, a holding company affiliated with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has offices and agents across the nation where, according to their Web site: "Our financial professionals deliver personalized financial solutions that promote thrift, prudence, protection, and financial preservation, which enable and empower our clients with the tools necessary to become self-sufficient, realize their potential, protect the profitability and value of their businesses, and perpetuate their family legacies."

Specifically, their products include life insurance, investments, annuities, long-term care, disability insurance and other financial products.

Brandon Clarke, manager of the Beneficial office in Mesa, says, "I've had experience with other companies and, coming from the outside, this is the first company I've really trusted. They are conservative, stable and have great financial backing."

In addition, he says, "Beneficial is not a profit-only company. That just is not the mentality here. Everything they do goes back to, 'What is out mission?'"

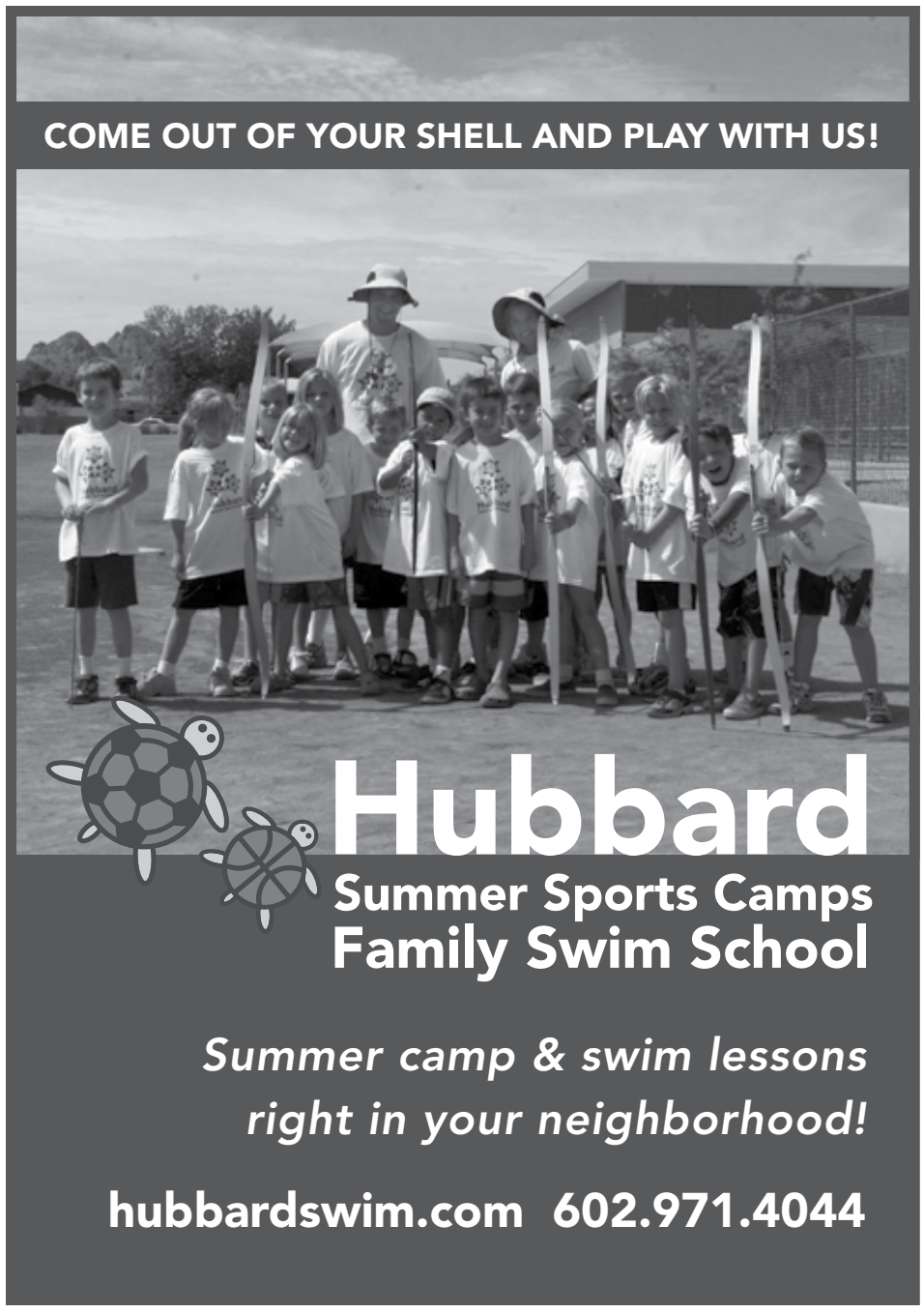
In addition to their focus on their own beneficiaries, "Beneficial Life has been widely recognized for what we are doing to give back to the community," says Mike Jensen, Chief Marketing Officer. "Ten percent goes back to charity. While most companies give, perhaps, 1 percent, Beneficial gives back 10 percent."

Instead of incentive trips for agents, he says, they go on humanitarian service trips. The company also offers charitable riders on life insurance policies, so, "You designate who you want it to go to and, upon your passing, we write out a check to that charity in your name, for 1 percent of your policy, funded by us."

Brandon says, of the approximately 35 agents in Arizona, only a handful of those work out of the office itself, while others work in other locations across the state.

Brandon says, "Right now there is a feeling of insecurity that is almost floating in the air. It's important to get good advice and understand how to navigate in the current situation."

Arizona office is located at 1910 S. Stapley Drive, Suite 119, in Mesa. For information or schedule an appointment with an agent near you, call 480-890-0981 or 800-729-0981. The Beneficial Web site is www.beneficialfinancial-group.com



From the Editor's Desktop

By Cecily Markland

Don't you want your change?

"Don't forget your change," the store clerk said, pushing three pennies and a dime across the counter toward me.

I wasn't trying to ignore it, just needed to first drop my newly purchased Bubbalicious gum into my purse, fold my receipt and slip it into my wallet and gather the handles of the several plastic bags that held my purchases.

I suppose I wasn't moving quite fast enough for her liking because the clerk made a huffing sound, even put her hand on her hip, and said, "Your change. Don't you want your change?"

"Of course," I said, and, trying to lighten what seemed to be much too much tension over a matter of 13 cents, I added, "I want all the change I can get."

She didn't respond, only grimaced at me before turning to help the next customer.

I don't blame her, really. It was a somewhat strange thing to say.

Besides, it's not really true. I *don't* want all the change I can get.

In fact, I've about had it up to here (picture me with my hand somewhere near the top of my forehead) with all the banter about change and just how wonderful it will be when, or if, it ever comes about.

Combine that with all the changes on the economic front and how they are affecting people I love and, well, let's just say that change has been the source of a bit more anger and angst than I care to deal with sometimes!

Still, it seems, just when I've nearly worn myself out from kicking against the proverbial pricks, something seems to bring me up short and I hear echoes similar to that clerk's question, "Don't you want your change?"

When a friend says they are getting back to basics, eating more meals around their own dinner table, I hear, "Don't you want the kind of change that brings more families together?"

Another friend is sharpening a skill, another is pursuing a new business venture. One is planting a garden, another starting an exercise program. "Don't you want the kind of change that encourages personal and family preparedness?"

The list goes on. A ward member is housing her unemployed son. A sister is providing free babysitting to another young mother who has had to go to work to help make ends meet. "Don't you want the kind of change that allows people to serve and love one another?"

I hear Easter Pageant Director, Nanci Wudel, say this year's pageant will be attended by more people than ever, people who are looking for peace and hope in this time of turmoil. "Don't you want the kind of change that brings more people to Christ?"

Then, still not sure I really want too much change, I hear words like those from Mosiah, "…Marvel not that all mankind must be born again, yea, born of God, changed…being redeemed of God, becoming his sons and daughters."

Well, if you put it that way, I guess I do. I want all the change I can get.

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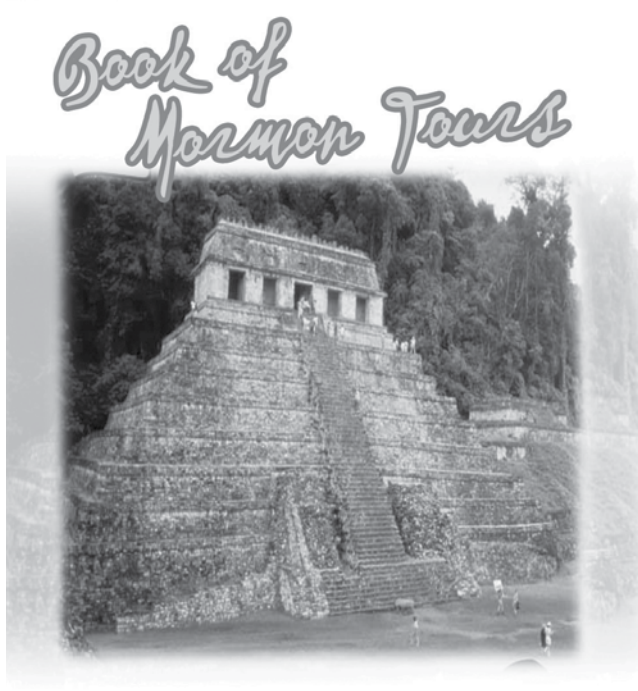

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Rhyme and Reason

By Linda Turley-Hansen

Foreclosure Crisis Tests Our Response

Headlines don't tell the inside story of what's happening in the housing market collapse. Unless you're living it, or you get an up-close look, you won't see the tailings of dreams gone bust; the lives, the hopes, gone under.

Like an avalanche, folding in every solid thing, the collapse has stolen the future of generations. Unusually evil corruption, beginning with Fannie and Freddie's mortgage empire, launched the trickle-down effect and ambushed the unsuspecting. In its wake are ghost subdivisions, which were once someone's future; empty houses, looking for all the world as unkempt headstones in desolate graveyards.

Recently, I've had reason to tour abandoned homes in Phoenix's East Valley. The farther out you go, the more there are. They once were beacons to the young; unsophisticated families who just wanted to share the American dream. The hawkers did their magic and, soon, miles and miles of green and dirt became curbs, homes and never, never land.

From the first doorknob, adorned with the blue lockbox, it's eerie to step into lost space. There's an energy; a sorrow. Some homes still contain those who are waiting to put their dreams asunder, trapped by time, waiting for a buyer; someone who will rescue their credit rating. Those are the most gripping; the happy family pictures, the carefully painted pink and lavender borders in the nurseries, the pavers out back around the fire pit, planted with pride by workers who then fed their families or by a father embracing the joy of ownership.

To take the tour is to feel heartbreak. It touches ones own place where the memory of loss waits to be stirred awake. It's hard to breathe, even as we shrug it off. After all, it's not our grief. But, it won't leave. It clings. It haunts.

Clearly, the awfulness must be noted, but there's something else that glares, almost shouts out to onlookers. Some of the homes are lovingly left to the bank; intact, cleaned, out of respect for what was. Others are desecrated. Fixtures are ripped out, appliances torn from their foundations, walls broken and smeared with grime. They speak of angst turned into hate.

And, though I have fairly noted the quicksand traps that were set by crafty business people, there remains an extremely important message in this sorrow. No matter who betrays us, we still determine who we will be. The Latter-day Saint community, especially, is all about pro-active living in regards to preparedness and the bigger picture. We are warned constantly about carefully managing debt.

And, those Sunday School lessons remind us, when no one is looking, our actions tell who we really are. Or, this: Though there may not be laws to prevent homeowners from removing their improvements, any kind of destruction breaks the moral code.

To take this drama further: tragedy of any sort, relationships or business, when responded to by ugliness, breeds darkness beyond the initial evil. Make no mistake, those responses are embedded into our lives, to be lived again.

We have been warned of rough times ahead. Our hope is not in retaliation, but in rising above them. It's something to remember if the banker comes to visit.

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CYBER SURFING

with
Jill B. Adair

Managing personal finances

Two years ago, the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints issued a statement about personal finances, saying, "We encourage you wherever you may live in the world to prepare for adversity by looking to the condition of your finances. We urge you to be modest in your expenditures; discipline yourselves in your purchases to avoid debt. . . . If you have paid your debts and have a financial reserve, even though it be small, you and your family will feel more secure and enjoy greater peace in your hearts." (From the pamphlet, "All Is Safely Gathered In: Family Finances," Feb. 2007).

We now face uncertain economic times and it continues to be vital to our family's security and to our personal peace to be wise managers of our finances. The Internet offers a wide variety of tools and resources to help with financial preparedness.

At ProvidentLiving.org, click on Family Finances for information from the booklet, "All Is Safely Gathered In: Family Finances." Topics include: Pay Tithes and Offerings, Avoid Debt, Use a Budget (provides a link to an online budget worksheet), Build a Reserve and Teach Family Members (with an online version of "One for the Money: Guide to Family Finance," from a General Conference talk by Marvin J. Ashton).

Go to LDS Living magazine at http://ldslivingmagazine.com/subs/show/2 for articles such as: "Stretching Your Food Dollar," "Raising Money-Smart Kids," "Chasing Money or Choosing Peace," "Advice for Financial Fitness," "11 Simple Ways to Organize Your Finances," "Savvy Grocery Shopping," and "Outsmarting Debt."

BYU's Marriott School of Management project on Personal Finance is found at http://personalfinance.byu.edu. The stated purpose of this Web site is to instruct Church members and others about personal financial management. This instruction is provided through a series of free, online lessons. Additional Readings links to other helpful articles, including some from the Ensign. Other resources include personal finance manuals, PowerPoint presentations and family home evening lessons.

Mymoney.gov is the U.S. government's Web site dedicated to teaching the basics about financial education. Mymoney.gov offers help for buying a home, balancing a checkbook or investing in a 401k. Included is a free "My Money" Tool Kit and tips to avoid advance fee loan and foreclosure rescue scams. The information is also available in Spanish.

The Federal Reserve System, www.federalreserve.gov/consumerinfo/default.htm, features "Five Tips for Getting the Most from Your Credit Card," "Five Tips for Protecting Your Home from Foreclosure," "Consumer's Guide to Mortgage Refinancing" and "Mortgage Foreclosure Resources."

MSN money, http://moneycentral.msn.com/quickref/quickref.asp?cat=1, is a good resource for answers regarding savings, debt, budgeting, taxes, planning for college, teaching children about money, and more.

Consumer Reports has a blog at http://blogs.consumerreports.org/money with helpful information on consumer news, updates and trends.

A helpful, local site at phoenixgasprices.com allows the viewer to search for the lowest daily gas prices in the Valley.

One of the popular features at SisterSavings.net is the list of weekly sales at local grocery stores to help stretch for food budget.

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In The Mommy Zone...

By Kristie Young Fairbanks

Life's Masterpiece

A few days ago, my seven-month-old daughter spied a lonely and forgotten Cheerio under the kitchen table. She hadn't quite mastered the art of sitting up without something propped up against her diapered behind, so I was confident that the cereal was safely out of reach.

To my astonishment, she lowered her chubby hands to the floor and hoisted herself up onto her knees. She stared at the Cheerio, then back at her hands, as if willing her chunky body onward to claim the forbidden prize.

I sat amused, watching her try to figure out this unpleasant predicament. With valiant determination, she picked up her right hand and gently placed it forwards a few inches. She then did the same with her left. Now her tiny frame was helplessly outstretched and I knew she could not hold on for long.

I was ready to swoop in and save her from a nasty belly flop when all of the sudden, her chubby legs jerked into action. She scooted one knee along the floor and surprisingly, the other followed. She stopped and raised a fuzzy head in my direction, seeking approval.

My heart froze as she gave me a wide grin and continued in her journey. Slowly, tiny hands padded on linoleum. Gingerly, wobbly knees continued the pattern. The rhythm of her movements was mesmerizing.

I was witnessing a precious moment, a miraculous milestone. I watched in utter fascination as she judged the distance between hand and knee, coordinating each move. She was learning to crawl!

Here she was, in the first stages of infancy, making that initial etch on her life's canvas. She is just now starting to paint her life masterpiece and luckily, I get to see it all unfold.

As a baby, she has a blank canvas. As she grows each day, she is discovering ideas and themes for her life's work, learning the tools of her trade and dreaming of brilliant hues and patterned designs that will someday inspire and delight all who will behold their future grandiose.

My five and eight-year-old are just beginning to pencil sketch the outlines for their life's artwork. With simple depictions and designs, they have decided on a theme and overall tone for their creations, happily absorbing all the life experiences that they can.

My 11 and 13-year-old are working even more diligently. They have incorporated color into their masterpieces by bolstering their creativity through hands-on training. They are striving to master the quality of their chosen blueprint through layered textures and brush strokes.

My oldest son, aged 15, has begun to sketch his own independence onto his canvas, depicting a young man on the verge of self-discovery. His palate is taking on more vivid colors as he mixes and creates new color hues that portray the passing of his youth.

I am half finished with my life's work. My artistry depicts the sheer joys of family life and the elaborate delicacies of motherhood. I see my life's work shine miraculously in the eyes of my six children as I paint my canvas with the flair of a budding artist, daily adding depth and richness to its quality.

My father has recently finished his life painting. He completed his final artistry as he passed away a few short weeks ago. I feel blessed to have been left with the legacy of his masterpiece As he figuratively signed his name to his canvas in those last memorable weeks of his life, it caused me to reflect upon the artist in us all.

We each are given a fresh canvas upon entering into this world. As we grow and learn, we paint our life's picture with the experiences mortality brings. We add splashes of color and excitement to our masterpieces as we enter different stages of life.

Marriage, children, jobs and family ties all influence our artistry, adding dimensions and warmth to our portraits. Year after year, we work on perfecting our life paintings, trying our best to cover our canvas with the robust details of our lives.

Each of our canvas creations are now in the works. Only time will tell how our life masterpieces will be revealed. If we succeed, we will leave our legacy as a tribute, hailing the true mark of a professional lifetime artist.

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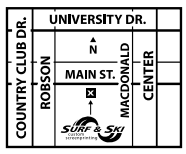

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Guest Column

by Margaret Turley, RN

Cost-Saving Health Care Tips

As a mother and grandmother, I understand that health care can place great demands on a family's budget; yet, as a nurse with 34 years experience, I also understand that there are excellent ways to save on health care costs.

First, if your employer offers a health savings plan, take advantage of that. By putting pre-tax dollars from your salary in this fund, you maximize your earning power.

If you have such an account, keep all receipts for any health supplements, vitamins, and over-the-counter medicines. Ask your physician to write a letter of medical necessity for those items that are essential to your health maintenance. For instance, women are told to take calcium to prevent osteoporosis. People with joint pain take over-the-counter remedies such as ibuprofen or naproxen. Some take aspirin to help guard against heart attack. Still others use herbal remedies, such as fever few for headaches. Send copies of your receipts and the letter of medical necessity to the administrators of your savings plan as proof of legitimate medical expenses (as required by the federal government).

If your health savings account offers a credit card, you can use it to cover the co-pays at your doctor's office and to meet your deductable limit.

Many pharmacies offer their own discount plans. If your insurance doesn't cover medications, it pays to shop around to see if the prescriptions you need are on the pharmacy's discount list. Even if you do have coverage, at times it may be less expensive to purchase from the drugstore discount program than to use your insurance and have to pay the high co-pay. For instance, my mother's Medicare drug program would cover one of her prescriptions, but her co-pay would be $40. However, since the medication she needs is included on a drugstore's discount list, she buys the same prescription for only $10, saving $30.

Often, you can save money on recurring prescriptions by ordering them through mail-order pharmacies. Keep track of when you need to call in your refills and be sure to plan around weekends and holidays.

Home remedies offer another way to save. In many cases, home remedies are less expensive and may be safer than medications. Honey can soothe a simple cough. Baking soda paste can reduce itching. Ice packs and warm compresses can relieve discomfort and pain.

To save the cost of return visits to the doctor, make a list of the things you need to talk to your doctor about and take it with you when you go. When the doctor gives instructions, write them down. Then keep the instructions next to the medication or treatment, so you don't forget.

So you don't lose time from work, urgent care facilities make it convenient to see a doctor in the evening and on weekends. Several offer walk-in care. Make sure your insurance covers the facility you are planning to use.

Avoid using the emergency room as a clinic. Not only are emergency room charges typically higher, but also, if your issue is not life threatening, they frequently will send you to your doctor the next day and you will be paying for that visit as well.

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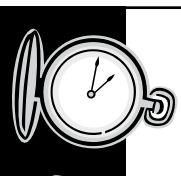

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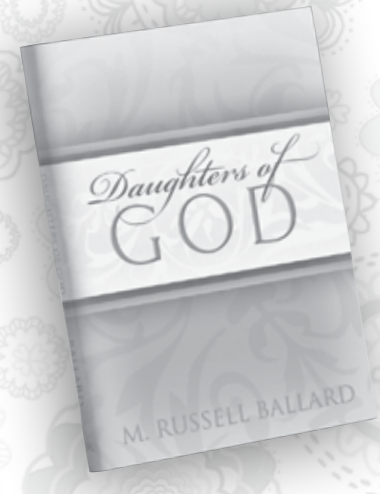

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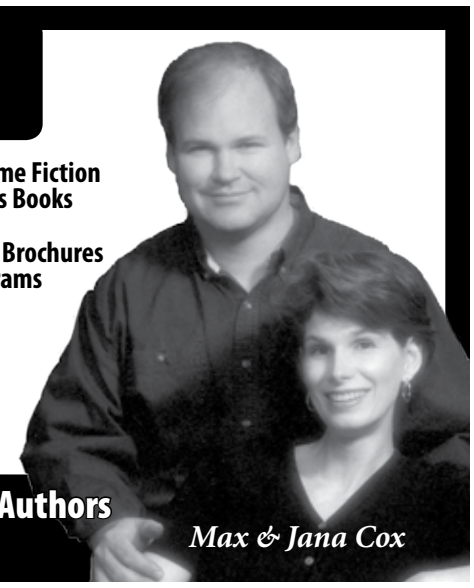

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Aid Organizations Winning Measles Battle: Deaths Drop Dramatically

Recently health and relief organizations announced that measles deaths decreased by 74 percent worldwide from 2000 to 2007. The significant decrease was due to extensive vaccination efforts.

The Measles Initiative is behind the vaccination effort that has saved millions of lives. It's led by the American Red Cross, the United Nations Foundation, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF and the World Health Organization. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is also a partner.

"It is gratifying to know that, due to the generous donations of time and means of selfless individuals, millions of lives have been saved," said Bishop David H. Burton. "The Church praises the work that has been done by all organizations involved to eradicate measles and is proud to be a partner in this effort."

Photo courtesy of LDS.org

The Church first became involved in the measles campaign in 2003. It is now one of the Church's humanitarian initiatives, along with clean water projects, wheelchair distribution, neonatal resuscitation training and vision treatment training.

Using 54,784 Latter-day Saint volunteers, the Church has contributed to measles campaigns in 28 countries. In total, 189,261,345 children have been vaccinated in the campaigns where Church members participated, according to Church Welfare Services. The Church has also donated millions of dollars to the effort.

"We have provided financial support, but even more important, we've had thousands of members of the Church involved in helping with these campaigns," said Garry Flake of Church Welfare Services.

The United Nations' goal is to reduce measles deaths by 90 percent from 2000 to 2010. The Church will continue to be a partner in helping to meet that goal.

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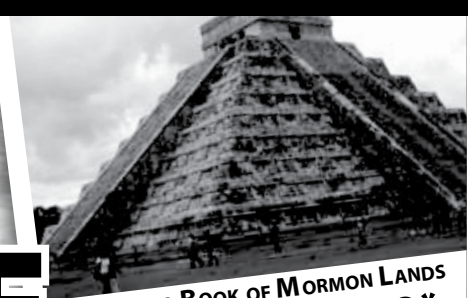

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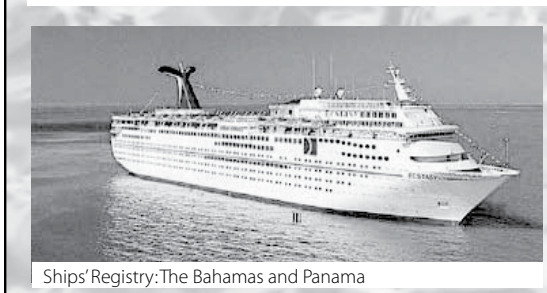

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A Second Chance at a Future Through Deseret Industries

When Jennifer was released from prison she thought everyone knew her past. "It was like I had 'felon' tattooed across my forehead," she said. But after she interviewed at the manufacturing plant at Deseret Industries, an agency sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, her life started to change.

Established in 1938, Deseret Industries (D.I.) is a both a nonprofit, vocational rehabilitation facility and a thrift store. It's a place where the public may purchase inexpensive, quality merchandise. But more importantly for Jennifer, it is a place where trainees work, receive training and are assisted in finding long-term employment.

"They gave me back my sense of self-worth and self-esteem. I was valued and that really helped me at a time in my life when I needed it," Jennifer said. "They helped save my life, a life I didn't think I wanted to save."

Jennifer isn't alone in her experience. Bill was in rehab for drug abuse when he received a referral to D.I. He says he gained stability in his life: a turnaround complete with job training, discussions in self-esteem building, workplace ethics and expectations, and even a new white shirt and tie.

"I got a job and a locker and they treated me like a real person," Bill reports, describing the self-respect he felt after participating in the vocational training programs.

Thousands of others in challenging situations have discovered that the multifaceted programs at Deseret Industries can redirect their lives. Trainees often include refugees, who enroll in English classes as well as the vocational components of the programs. Women and children living in shelters or even troubled teens or returning veterans find a niche that offers a boost from their difficult circumstances.

As trainees join the employee ranks at a Deseret Industries thrift store, many business and workplace skills may be acquired, such as custodial or computer skills, customer service, merchandising or even supervisory experiences.

In addition, community partnership programs allow participants, at no cost, to work with other local agencies to gain broader job skills in fields such as welding, medical transcription, pharmacy technician, forklift operation or food services.

As a part of the work rehabilitation curriculum, trainees study seven basic work behaviors that will help them find success on the job. A team coach helps implement and evaluate these additional skills as a part of an individual plan developed for every worker.

In addition, each worker is assigned a mentor, whether it is the local Church leader, a friend or family member or even a parole officer.

"Every individual needs a support team," explains Rich McKenna, director of the Deseret Industries operations. "Our goal is to help people become self-reliant, and we hope to help them get to that point in their lives. It's a holistic approach based on the needs of the person and what can be done to help prepare for a job. We help build bridges over poverty and over languages, helping people who help themselves."

Deseret Industries operates 43 thrift stores in seven western states. The stores collect inventory from individual local donations, enabling associates to process and recycle that inventory to fit others' needs — a circular strategy of service and learning that benefits the entire community.

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Tree Service

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Gilbert - Custom Horse Ranch

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Show Low- Mountain Retreat

White Mountain Ranch. Located just outside Show Low, this custom 6 bed / 3.5 bath , 3800+ sq.ft home sits on over 5.5 acres. Spend your summer days sitting on your wrap around deck looking out to endless views. Winter nights...cozy up to the wood burning stove in the great room with vaulted ceilings and stone hearth. Kitchen with granite counters and stainless steel appliances. Horse facilities include covered stalls, tack room, garage, fenced turn out and endless riding. A homeowner and horse lovers dream come true!! Please call for a brochure.

Nutrioso, AZ
Four 8.25+/- acre parcels with private wells. Breathtaking mountain views and walking distance to national forest. Perfect for mountain ranch! Call for pricing

Coolidge - Available Land
2 irrigated acres located near custom homes. Utilities to lot line. Please call for more information.

Chandler - Estates at McQueen
Gated custom estate! 4,408 sq.ft., 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, stunning upgrades throughout. Resort style backyard featuring diving pool, spa/grotto on 1/3 acre lot!

Gilbert- Allen Ranch
3,389 sq.ft., 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, formal living, formal dining, & loft. Spacious kitchen with granite counters. Diving pool, spa, & fire pit.
REDUCED!

Maricopa - Glennwilde
1835 sq.ft. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, bonus room, large kitchen opens to family room, perfect for entertaining! Community features lots of amenities!

Queen Creek/Florence
Five acre parcel abuts Oasis master planned community. Perfect for investor! Please call Penny for further information!
PRICE REDUCED!

Bank Owned Homes

Chandler - Fieldstone Estates
4077 sq.ft. 6 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, formal living & dining rooms $494,900

Scottsdale - McDowell Mountain
1936 sq.ft. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Cul-de-sac lot with great backyard!
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Queen Creek - Queenland Manor
1859 sq.ft. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, very clean with pebble-tec pool!
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1444 sq.ft. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Updated flooring, large kitchen.
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BUYING OR SELLING? VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR HELPFUL INFORMATION!

Penny Gould
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PennyGould@cox.net

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